



State Representative **Bobby B. DuBose**

District 94



2014-15 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

DEAR **FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND CONSTITUENTS,**

"Individual commitment to a group effort—that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work."

Vince Lombardi

When I was elected I promised to be inclusive in my efforts and keep you as informed as possible. Tallahassee is nearly 500 miles away and many of you may be unaware of the work of the legislature.

State legislators have a duty to make and mold laws that will best serve our communities. We also have a constitutional obligation to pass a balanced budget; in short, that essentially is our job.

SPONSORED BILLS

HB 471 (Disabled Parking): allows disabled veterans to park for free inside any state, county, municipality facility providing timed metered spaces. The bill passed House and Senate Unanimously. Effective July 1, 2015.

HB 845 (Sexting): helps keep our youth out of the system by allowing them to pay a civil citation for a first time violation of "sexting". The bill passed House and Senate unanimously under HB 133. Effective July 1, 2015.

CO-SPONSORED BILLS

HB 3 (Closing the Gap Program)

HB 11 (Care for Children)

HB 21 (Substance Abuse Services)

HB 201 (Diabetes Awareness Training for Law Enforcement Officers)

HB 321 (HIV Testing)

HB 369 (Human Trafficking)

HB 451 (Entertainment Industry)

HB 133 (Sexual Offenses)

SESSION & SPECIAL SESSION



Presenting HB 471, my first bill, on the House Floor.

The Florida Legislature abruptly adjourned session on May 1, 2015, shockingly without a state budget. House and Senate leadership had extremely different views on the approach to reimburse health care providers for uncompensated care and questions surrounded the amount of federal dollars available. This unforeseen circumstance occurred given the vast differences on whether or not to expand the Affordable Care Act, therefore a 20-day special session was called and began on June 1st.

Despite the early adjournment of session, the Legislature was able to end a number of high stakes test required for our children, expand the system

designed to keep our youth out the system, and also expand programs encouraging foster care and adoption as well as remove the provision banning adoption by homosexuals.



Pictured L to R: Representatives Narain, Fullwood, children from the Jack and Jill program and myself in the House Chambers

THE FLORIDA BUDGET

As I mentioned earlier, the budget is the only bill we have to pass through the state legislature. This year we did not do that because of the abrupt end to Session. Because of this, we had to return to Tallahassee for special session where the budget was then finalized. Our district had numerous allocations, however there were nearly \$5 million worth of cuts for programs and street improvements in our area. Programs such as: Rapid Housing, Broward Sheriff's Office V.I.P.E.R., City of Fort Lauderdale Juvenile Justice Program, City of Lauderhill Parkway Park, and so many others.

District 94 Allocations

Bridge construction on Broward Blvd: (\$9,360,627)

NW 9th Ave construction: (\$1,750,903)

Art Serve, Inc: (\$47,569)

Bonnet House Inc: (\$378,580)

Broward Center for Performing Arts: (\$72,421)

Broward County Cultural Division: (\$73, 231)

Lauderhill Multidisciplinary Cultural Programs: (\$10, 545)

Fort Lauderdale Historical Society, Inc: (\$28,922)

Gay Men's Chorus of South Florida, Inc: (\$11, 469)

Museum of Discovery and Science, Inc: (\$574,483)

Nova Southeastern University Art Museum of Fort Lauderdale: (\$66,751)

Stonewall Library & Archives, Inc: (\$8,311)

The Stranahan House, Inc: (\$635,250)

School Readiness Program: (\$41, 682, 565)

Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Program: (\$38,155,535)

Nova Southeastern University Autism Program: (\$375,000)

Fort Lauderdale International Airport: (\$21,137,445)

Broward County Shore Protection: (\$2,948,243)

Port Everglades Southport: (\$2,500,000)

Resurfacing of Oakland Park Blvd, from East of 31st Ave. to East of I-95: (\$3,169,295)

Resurfacing Broward Blvd, from 15th Ave. to US 1: (\$6,387, 620)

Health care stood at the forefront of all of the various policy areas during the 2014-15 legislative session. A plan to address health care access and, more specifically, to expand the Affordable Care Act, were our biggest issues and the cause for an abrupt ending to regular session. A plan that included the expansion of the Affordable Care Act and had bi-partisan support in the Senate was voted down in the House. The House spent 10 hours on this plan and a vote of 41-72 was rendered. House Democrats and a few House Republicans voted in

favor of the senate plan.

More than a year ago, federal officials notified

Florida that it would end funding for the Low Income Pool (LIP) after this year's \$2.16 billion in payments. In May, federal officials gave preliminary approval for a plan that would provide \$1 billion in payments for uncompensated care and stated the amount would be further reduced next year. With a guarantee of lower funds from the federal government and hundreds of thousands of Floridians still without health care, this will surely be an ongoing issue.



Pictured:

Chair Ritch Workman and I on the House Floor.



Pictured with the University of Florida, Blue Key Gators.

EDUCATION

At the start of session, the Legislature passed a bill that would reduce the number of state required tests for students.

There are still some areas on this issue that need to be addressed, but the bill limits testing to only 45 hours of school time each year. Also eliminated were third grade retention, school grades, and teacher evaluations related to testing in 2015. Florida schools will receive a 4.13% increase in funding this year and a 3% increase in per pupil spending (i.e., \$207 per student).

The state will continue to designate a portion of money for Florida's public universities and colleges as performance

based funding each year. This year, \$400 million will be available to schools that meet specific performance criteria.



Pictured:

School Board Member, Dr. Rosalind Osgood and I with youth from the Mentoring Tomorrow's Leaders Program



Pictured:

A Group of kids from Sunrise Middle School visiting my office at the Capitol.



State Representative **Bobby B. DuBose**

District 94

**128 S.E. 1ST STREET
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, 33301**

**This newsletter contains important
information about your 2014-15
Florida State Legislature, including
new laws that will affect YOU!**

MY FIRST SESSION

A positive from my first session was the guidance I received from my friend, colleague, and someone I consider family, Senator Chris Smith. Together we worked on many projects, including allocations for the Urban League and a police academy program at Edward Waters College. I've received praise for being able to pass bills as a freshman member of the minority party, however this would not have been possible without the assistance I received from Senator Smith. Words can't express my appreciation of having an experienced mentor help me transition from local to state government. No one gets to where they are without the help of someone else and I am no different.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bobby B. DuBose".

Until next time,

Bobby B. DuBose
State Representative, District 94



**Senator Chris Smith and I providing a legislative update at
our Town Hall Meeting.**